

Prairieland Talk

# "Rescued by Elder Brother"

By ROMAIN SAUNDERS, 4110 South 51st St., Lincoln 6, Nebr.

President and Mrs. Kennedy have a three-year-old daughter. Little Miss Kennedy thought she would like to have a swim, so jumped in the swimming pool; but instead of floating on the water the little gal sank to the bottom. A grown up lady onlooker saw it, plunged in and rescued the little one. Radio and newspapers gave us the story. Prairieland Talker many years ago was a three-year-old; went with older kids and an elder brother to a nearby pond of water, stripped off with the others to have a "swim" but I was to stay on a bit of the pond where there was shallow water. Slipped off and down I went—once, twice and was about to go the third and last time when brother, Ezra, who had rushed to my help, pulled me out and the water that had about filled me up came out of me. No radio or newspaper notice of that childish event. But I have survived.



Romaine Saunders

A friend at Page sends me a copy of the printed story of the Rev. Bartley Blain, a pioneer Methodist preacher on the prairies of Holt county, the builder, organizer and first pastor of the Methodist church in O'Neill that stood from early times until recent times where the present fine church building of the Methodists stands today at 531 E. Clay street. The Rev. Blain and his bride came in their youthful days to the prairies of Holt county from Michigan, the ministers of his church then known as Circuit Riders, which meant going from place to place. As publisher, editor, state senator and former federal official, the late Denny Cronin, said many times the priests, and preachers of pioneer days came here not to get rich but to minister in a spiritual sense to the citizens. Yes, the story of the pioneer Methodist minister is interesting and will no doubt be read by many. The Rev. and Mrs. Blain made their home in later years in Page community. I believe he served at one time as county superintendent of schools. The printed story of this pioneer church and school man has his picture and his young wife by his side; also a picture of the church he built in O'Neill and a picture of the Methodist church and parsonage in Page.

Lew Nissen left his Lincoln home the morning of July 10 to go up to Holt county to spend a week with relatives and friends at Atkinson and in the Amelia community. Lew invited me to go with him to disembark as we pulled into O'Neill, but I had to be in Lincoln at that time.

Daughter and her life's companion who see that dad behaves are on a three-week vacation trip that takes them to the southeast limits of this Land of Uncle Sam. Son-in-law has three weeks off duty on full pay, but was touched before leaving on that trip for \$75 income tax. In my working days we had no time off on full pay nor were we touched for income tax. Big pay today and big expenses. What next? Well, we should be ready for it with a smile or a frown.

Two from the same household—the one a saint, the other a sinner. From the same orchard a sweet apple and a bitter one. The good and the bad travel life's highway side by side.

Dr. J. P. Gilligan came to O'Neill from an eastern state when a young man. Established his office and "surgical ward" in a little back room of the old Holt County Bank building. The doctor served the community for many years, married and established a home and reared a family, served as mayor of O'Neill and after moving from the old bank building had commodious quarters over the drug store he and his brother-in-law, Charley Stout, had some three doors west of the First National Bank. After a life time of treating the sick among as the doctor now lays in the abode of the dead "up on the hill." Mrs. Gilligan, the last I knew, was living in Omaha.

O'Neill still has two banks and two newspapers. At one time there were four banks and I count eight newspapers that once were edited, published and printed in a little country town bearing the honored name O'Neill. At the corner of what is now Fifth and Douglas street and just across the street from McCafferty's hardware store in a building later taken over by Toohill's "butcher shop" the town's first newspaper was there born and died. Others that came and went were the Holt County People, the Tribune, Free Press, Item, Sun, Beacon Light, Alliance Tribune and a sheet bearing the name Democrat. And The Frontier outlived them all.

Public officials in state and nation serve their country, of which you and I are a part. The corn grows, grass is green, flowers bloom, birds sing. And up there seated upon a golden throne He has a watchful eye over all including you and I.

Mike Horiskey, Montana Jack Sullivan, Billy McNichols and L. G. Gillespie with us no more only in memory. But we smile and extend a hand as along life's highway there comes still hale and hearty Walt O'Malley, Henry Grady, Hugh Coyne, Cal Stewart and other long time friends.

Editorial

## Out Of All Reason

Proposed new postage rates would increase postal costs for small-town weekly and daily newspapers by an average of 254 per cent—and would undoubtedly force many of them out of business. That is the gist of figures compiled by the National Editorial Association, and presented by an Association spokesman to the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

Almost everyone agrees that something must be done about the Post Office deficit, which is currently running in the vicinity of \$700 million a year. But a rate increase such as this on the smaller newspapers—coming as it would on top of other rate increases amounting to 89 per cent which have been imposed during the last 10 years—would be out of all reason. The carrying of newspapers and magazines, like the carrying of letter mail, has been regarded as an essential public service ever since this government began. It is thus comparable to the military forces, and it has rarely been argued that it should wholly pay its own way.

On the other hand, Post Office services of a purely commercial nature should most certainly pay their own way—which means that the charges should honestly cover both direct and indirect costs. The salient example here is parcel post, which competes with private tax-paying carriers at the local as well as the national level. It is not in any sense of the word a basic function of the Post Office Department—and it has been operated at an enormous cumulative deficit over the years. It would seem that substantially increased parcel post charges should be a first step in dealing with the Post Office deficit problem.

ELLSWORTH, WISC., HERALD: "The Defense Dept. spends half of the national budget, \$42 billion. Half of that is for the procurement of goods. . . . One provoking figure is that 86 per cent of the \$21 billion spent on materials is being handed out by military officers to industry without competitive bidding. . . . Since 1947 Congress has been recommending that the system of awarding contracts without competitive bidding be abandoned save in extremely rare instances. But the practice continues. You can't blame the military for wanting it to continue. It makes things 'more flexible.' It's also one of those reasons you'll whistle a long time for a tax reduction."

DALLAS, TEX., NEWS: "Freedom of choice should apply to labor unions the same as to anything else. If a man is FORCED to join a union in order to get a job, then allow deduction of union dues from his pay envelope in order to keep his job—THAT ISN'T AMERICANISM!"

From the Illinois Medical Journal: "It is a strange paradox that the American people are intensely interested in their health, yet they spend more money on smoking and drinking (\$16.6 billion) than on drugs, hospitals, and physicians combined (15.4 billion)—according to the U. S. Department of Commerce. In addition, they complain about the cost of medical care but are willing, if not anxious, to spend comparable amounts on their socially pleasant poisons—tobacco and alcohol."

## Frontiers Ago

### 50 YEARS AGO

A very pretty wedding was solemnized at 10:30 when Allen P. Nesbitt was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Howe. . . . A large delegation of O'Neill people attended the Fourth of July celebration at Ewing last Tuesday. . . . James O'Connor, who lives upon his farm just a half-mile north of this city, is erecting a neat cottage on his lots on Douglas street. . . . Peter Greeley of Phoenix, one of the pioneers of Holt county, is in the city today attending district court. . . . Another Holt county pioneer dies, Cyrus H. Bentley, passes away last Saturday afternoon.

### 25 YEARS AGO

The county board Wednesday had the new courthouse insured for \$20,000, this being the first block of insurance taken out. . . . Activities have shifted from street paving to work on the sidewalks where a few spots are in need of new walk. . . . Threshers at J. B. Ryan's ranch started yesterday on 180 acres of rye which is yielding about six bushels to the acre. . . . C. B. Yarnell left last Friday for Hendley for a few days visit and to bring back Mrs. Yarnell and children who have been there the past month.

### 10 YEARS AGO

Northeast Holt county was hard hit about 3:30 p.m. Monday by a hail storm that inflicted spotty damage over a wide territory. . . . Tax collections exceed \$1,122,039 during past fiscal year. O'Neill Rockets defeated Sunday on Page diamond, 10-0. . . . Joy Tuch, Verdel, becomes the bride of Robert R. Wilson, Redbird, at Verdel June 22. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Fred Watson, Amelia, celebrate 55 years of marriage. . . . Birthday party held Monday for Judy Sullivan, six year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Sullivan.

### 5 YEARS AGO

A group of 12 Turkish agriculturists is touring Holt county. . . . Mrs. Archie Tuttle, Ewing, is injured by thrown firecracker. . . . Mrs. W. J. Cronin, 80, Ewing, dies June 29. . . . Page Roller Rink opens July 13. . . . Polio vaccine is more plentiful in Holt county. . . . Frontier sponsors O'Neill Day at Madison horse races. . . . Fund hits \$2,738 for Leonard Lorenz, 35, Middlebranch farmer who lost both arms in baler accident. . . . 7,000 bushels of grain destroyed in fire at C. G. Pratt farm near Bristow. . . . Showers boost pastures and crops.

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## The Long Ago At Chambers

### 50 YEARS AGO

Mrs. Maud Blake had a lively runaway Thursday but fortunately escaped unhurt. . . . The Vaudeville and Moving Picture Show of Duncan and Devere's has been in Chambers all this week, and it has been first class in every respect with clean, entertainment. . . . Link Lowery had a fine colt killed by lightning Thursday. . . . The Rev. G. A. Barker of Silver City, Ia., spoke to the IOOF on their Memorial Day anniversary at which time he had a very large and appreciative audience in the Band Boys tent.

### 25 YEARS AGO

Florence Lillian, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Kincaid, became the bride of the Rev. George Basil Anderson, son of Mrs. Bertha Anderson of Coquille, Ore., June 15. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Craig Baker entertained Sunday in honor of Mrs. Baker's mother. . . . Mrs. Art Johnson's birthday. . . . A big July 4 celebration planned here with races, parade, band concert, ball game, show, fireworks and dance. . . . Coming to the Golden Gate Theatre, "The Milky Way" with Harold Lloyd, admission 25 and 10c. . . . The Helping Hand club met at the home of Mamie and Marjorie Simmons Thursday with a picnic dinner.

## Inman News

By Mrs. James McMahan

Mr. and Mrs. John Buhlmann Jr. and family of Bartlett visited Mr. and Mrs. James Banks and Roger Wednesday evening. Mrs. Elizabeth Eslick and Dot left Friday for Chadron where they will visit Mr. and Mrs. John Banks. They have been visiting Mr. and Mrs. James Banks. Mr. and Mrs. Dale Banks and family of Omaha visited Friday morning with the James Banks family.

Mary Morsbach visited her parents, the D. Morsbach's Saturday evening. Perry Dawes, O'Neill was also a guest in the Morsbach home Saturday evening. Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Crosser and family, Neligh, visited Mr. and Mrs. Morsbach Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Crosser and family of Neligh visited Tuesday in the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Miller and Mr. and Mrs. David Morsbach.

Mrs. W. E. Kelley and daughter, Kay, and Ruth Ann Hansen visited Mr. and Mrs. Don Kelley and daughter at Norfolk Saturday afternoon and also Mr. and Mrs. James Kelley at Madison.

Mrs. Ethel Siders spent the weekend in Laurel visiting Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Miner.

Gene Butterfield, who attends college at Grand Island, spent the weekend visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Butterfield.

Mrs. Violet Sholes and Ralph attended a Conard reunion at Neligh Sunday. The reunion was held at the Neligh park.

Ronald Coventry of Omaha spent a couple of days last week visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Coventry.

Mrs. James McMahan attended a stated meeting of Synchony Chapter OES Thursday evening at O'Neill.

Lee Conger and two children of Independence, Mo., visited his mother, Mrs. Lee Conger, for a few days last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Sholes and son returned to their home in Fullerton Thursday after visiting Mrs. Amelia Moore for a couple of weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Clark and family of O'Neill visited Mrs. Violet Sholes Sunday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. James Harte Jr. and family and James Harte sr., all of Buhl, Ida., came Sunday to visit Mr. and Mrs. Leo Harte and family and other relatives and friends for a few days.

Mrs. James Kelley and son, Neal, of Madison visited Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Kelley and Kay Thursday.

Mrs. Vaden Kivett spent the weekend at her home. She attends summer school at Wayne.

Mrs. Leo Harte and Donna and Mrs. Louis Vitt spent Wednesday in Norfolk.

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# BEN FRANKLIN

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